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1 and 2 are being amended to separate the claims into two claims. Material deleted from claims 1 and 2 has been rewritten in dependent form in new claims 27 and 28, respectively. Applicants submit that the amendments do not change the scope of the claims as originally filed. Such amendments are therefore made to address formalities in the claim format and are not related to the patentability of the subject matter of the claims. No new matter was added by way of these claim amendments and additions.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the subject matter of the pending claims is patentable and that the instant application should accordingly be allowed. If the Examiner believes that a conversation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in expediting prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (203) 812-6450.

Respectfully submitted,

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## Amended Claims (Attorney Docket No. Le A 33 844)

Version with Markings to Show Changes to Claims

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1. (Amended) [The use of compounds which are] A method for the treatment of cardiovascular disorders comprising administering to a host in need thereof an effective amount of a compound which is also capable of stimulating soluble guanylate cyclase independently of the hem group in the enzyme[, for preparing medicaments for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases, such as angina pectoris, ischemias and cardiac insufficiency].
2. (Amended) [The use of compounds which are] A method for the treatment of arteriosclerosis, hypertension, thromboembolic disorders, venous disorders and fibrotic disorders comprising administering to a host in need thereof an effective amount of a compound which is also capable of stimulating soluble guanylate cyclase independently of the hem group in the enzyme[, for preparing medicaments for the treatment of arteriosclerosis, hypertension, thromboembolic disorders, venous disorders and fibrotic disorders, such as, in particular, hepatic fibrosis].
21. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition [medicament,] comprising at least one compound of the general formula (I) as claimed in any of [the preceding] claims 3 to 19.
22. (Amended) [The use of compounds of the formula (I) as claimed in any of the preceding claims 3 to 19 for preparing a medicament] A method for the treatment of cardiovascular disorders comprising administering to a host in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in any of claims 3 to 19.
23. (Amended) [The use of compounds of the general formula (I) as claimed in any of the preceding claims 3 to 19 for preparing medicaments] A method for the treatment of angina pectoris, ischemias and cardiac insufficiency comprising administering to a host in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of general formula (I) as claimed in any of claims 3 to 19.

24. (Amended) [The use of compounds of the general formula (I) as claimed in any of the preceding claims 3 to 19 for preparing medicaments] A method for the treatment of hypertension, thromboembolic disorders, arteriosclerosis and venous disorders comprising administering to a host in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of general formula (I) as claimed in any of claims 3 to 19.
25. (Amended) [The use of compounds of the general formula (I) as claimed in any of the preceding claims 3 to 19 for preparing medicaments] A method for the treatment of fibrotic disorders comprising administering to a host in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of general formula (I) as claimed in any of claims 3 to 19.
26. (Amended) The [use as claimed in] method of claim 25, characterized in that the fibrotic disorder is hepatic fibrosis.